

Advertisers' index

American Osteopathic Association

CME Video: "Back to the Future: Primary Care in America," 496

101st Convention advance registration form, 493, 494

101st Convention hotel registration form, 497, 498

Bayer Corporation

Adalat CC, 441, 442

Ciba-Geigy

NovaCon, 449

Forest Laboratories

Esgic Plus, 453, 454

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.

Flovent, Cover 2, 439

Schering Corporation

Vancenase AQ, 455-458

SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals

Caring Cooperative, 447

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, 452

University of New England, 499

Westview Hospital, 499

Williams and Wilkins, 482

Zeneca Pharmaceuticals

Sular, 483, 484

Zestril, Cover 3, Cover 4

JAOA Reviews

Fundamentals of Family Medicine

Edited by Robert B. Taylor. Pp 582, with illus. Springer-Verlag, 175 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10010, 1996, \$35 (paper).

Fundamentals of Family Medicine is intended to serve as "the course text for family medicine/primary care clerkships." The book has many features that will serve well for this purpose. Case studies, excellent algorithms, charts for quick reference, abundant references, and an emphasis on common conditions are among the work's strong points.

A unique feature is the use of an extended family as a source for case studies that conclude each chapter. The cases stand alone, but the reader may refer to a genogram that places the patient discussed in the context of the family. This approach affords a great way to teach the utility of the genogram. The assessment and plan portions of the cases are guided by questions, such as "What further labs would you like to order?" These questions allow students to apply their clinical reasoning skills, but the lack of answers to the questions requires discussion with the attending physician.

Charts and tables are helpful. Specifically, the charts illustrate at a glance such things as abnormality, cause, and treatment, making it easy to access needed information. Tables, when used, also provide easily readable, pertinent information. Algorithms are simple and uncluttered.

Fundamentals of Family Medicine addresses the common conditions that account for 80% to 90% of a family medicine practice. This fact lends itself well to students on clinical rotations who must be (or must quickly become) familiar with the conditions they will see every day. The abundant list of references provides the student with many resources

for further research and works well for the supervising physician's reading assignments and following day discussions.

My concerns about the book are few. There is no apparent reason for the sequencing of information. Although this is not an insurmountable drawback, the flow would be better if there were a common thread or a sequential relationship from chapter to chapter. I am particularly disappointed that manipulation is not mentioned for the treatment of low back pain. With the Agency on Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) guidelines for *Acute Low Back Problems in Adults* recommending manipulation for the conservative treatment of low back pain, it is time for manipulative treatment to be included in current textbooks.

Overall, *Fundamentals of Family Medicine* is an informative, easy-to-read textbook. It should serve well as the course text for family medicine clerkship rotations. ♦

JoAnn Ryan, DO

Chairman, Department of Osteopathic Family Medicine
Oklahoma State University-College of Osteopathic Medicine
Tulsa, Okla